

# Indiana State Board of Education



David Dickson, Ph.D., Hammond  
Sandra Kirts Cantrell, Columbus  
Robert Kovach, Mishawaka

Suellen Reed, Ed.D., Chair  
Susan Brace, Fort Wayne  
Connie Blackketter, Rensselaer  
Robert Lazard, Indianapolis  
Daniel Tanoos, Terre Haute

Darvin Stilwell, Boonville  
J. Gordon Pendleton, Corydon  
Randle Pollard, Indianapolis

## MINUTES

### INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

February 4, 2004  
Department of Education  
James Whitcomb Riley Conference Room  
Indianapolis, Indiana

The Discussion session of the Indiana State Board of Education convened at 10:05 a.m. Board members Dr. Suellen Reed, Susan Brace, Robert Lazard, Sandra Kirts Cantrell, Connie J. Blackketter, Darvin Stilwell, Daniel Tanoos, Robert Kovach, and J. Gordon Pendleton were present. Board members Randle Pollard and Dr. David Dickson were not present.

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Cheryl Orr, Commission for Higher Education, and Steve Stoughton, Community Visions, discussed the Core 40 scholars program.

The Indiana Core 40 Scholars Initiative is part of a state and national effort designed to better prepare students for success in higher education and the workforce through more rigorous academics in high school. Indiana was selected to participate in the Core 40 scholars initiative in September 2003 by the Center for State Scholars. As part of the state's P-16 Plan efforts, the Core 40 initiative is managed by the Education Roundtable, working in partnership with leaders from the state's business community. Ms. Orr and Mr. Stoughton discussed project goals:

- Project goals for year one: In the first year of implementation (2003-2004), the Indiana Core 40 Scholars Initiative will reach 18 school corporations throughout the state.
  - Project goals for year two: In year two (2004-2005) the Indiana Core 40 Scholars Initiative will be available to all schools across the state.
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Jeffery P. Zaring, State Board of Education Administrator, discussed the Academic Honors Diploma (AHD) course review process.

Mr. Zaring said the Department of Education will not conduct a review this year (2003-2004) as we monitor the on-going dialogue and discussions of the Education Roundtable and the State Board of Education concerning possible changes to the high school graduation requirements.

The Department of Education proposes to recommence the AHD review process next year (2004-2005) with a ten percent random sampling review. The review process, though smaller, will follow the procedures established during the five-year review cycle.

A mailing has been sent to all high school principals and superintendents to notify them of the Department's plan and to remind them about the available resources to support their AHD programs.

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Mr. Zaring discussed plans for a meeting with CTB/McGraw-Hill to discuss the 2004 ISTEP+ test. The meeting will take place April 27-28, 2004, in Monterey, California. Mr. Zaring, Wes Bruce, Assistant Superintendent, and Ms. Blackketter will attend.

Mr. Bruce and Mr. Zaring discussed the following ISTEP+ and accountability topics:

- Report from the Center on Education Policy regarding implementation and effects of No Child Left Behind (NCLB).
- Report released by the United States Department of Education on NCLB flexibility.
- Setting Science Cut Scores.
- Statement of concurrence with joint education association call for changes in NCLB.

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Board members discussed a letter received from John Marsh, Principal, Floyd Central Junior/Senior High School, regarding the interpretation of how math credits earned in middle school are applied toward Core 40 and Honors Diplomas awarded at the high school level. Board members wish to express concern to the Education Roundtable. Not counting courses earned in middle school may discourage students from taking Algebra I in middle school.

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Mary Mickelson, Director, Division of School Accreditation, discussed the revised professional development and ISTEP+ remediation grant programs. Ms. Mickelson said changes have been made to require schools to:

- Analyze data.
- Incorporate identified student needs into the school improvement plan.
- Align professional development and remediation programs with the school improvement plan.
- Spend money on research-based programs.
- Demonstrate results.

Ms. Mickelson said as a way to encourage schools and school corporations to coordinate improvement efforts across programs and to fund such efforts across funding sources, the Department of Education recommends that a consolidated application be used. Ms. Mickelson discussed a sample application.

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Ms. Mickelson discussed instructional time requirements particularly related to:

- Minimum length of school year and a student instructional day.
- Minimum number of student instructional days for kindergarten programs.
- Participation in the high school graduation qualifying examination or any ISTEP+ tests.
- School days shortened because of late student arrival or early student dismissal because of an emergency.
- Minimum length of the school year (180 student instructional days).

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The discussion session recessed at 12:10 p.m. and reconvened at 1:20 p.m.

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Dorothy Winchester, Director, Office of Program Development, discussed a request from the Office of Career and Technical Education and the Office of Program Development to initiate a rulemaking process to add the following courses to the approved list of courses in agricultural science:

- Advanced life science: animals (L).
- Advanced life science: plants and soils (L).
- Advanced life science: foods (L).

Ms. Winchester said these courses also may be offered for Core 40 and AHD science credit if proposed new science courses are adopted by the State Board of Education.

Ms. Winchester also discussed a request from the Office of Career and Technical Education and the Office of Program Development to initiate the rulemaking process to consider changes to course titles and descriptions by:

- Adding separate titles for each college board advanced placement course and for college credit courses.
- Revising the science course titles.
- Standardizing the formatting of course titles.

The request for adopting new agricultural science courses and changes to course titles and descriptions will be brought before the State Board of Education at the business meeting on Thursday.

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Board members discussed issues pertaining to an education summit in 2005 and concluded that such an event was cost prohibitive for the foreseeable future.

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Terry Spradlin, Legislative Analyst, discussed the current status of House and Senate bills.

Mr. Zaring discussed talking points for two State Board legislative concerns:

- Accountability for schools that participate in public funding but are not subject to the sanctions of P.L.221.
- Maintaining for the comprehensive curriculum concern.

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The discussion session adjourned at 2:30 p.m.